NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

To the restorations in Waterbeach Church, a new window, the gift of Mr. E. Mason, and containing four panes of painted glass, the work of Miss Burbage, of Cambridge, has been put up, and it has been proposed in the parish, as the most acceptable acknowledgment of the liberality of Mr. Mason in rebuilding the chancel, to raise a subscription to repair the remainder of the edifice, in a corresponding style. We are sorry to say, however, adds our authority, the *Cambridge Chronicle*, that impediments have been started, likely to nullify the intentions of the projectors.——A church lately erected at Skirbeck, near Boston, Lincolnshire, at the expense of Dr. Roy, rector of the parish church, was consecrated last week.——The Rev. C. A. St. John Mildmay, as rector of Chelmsford, says the local *Chronicle*, has wisely decided on preventing any further interments taking place in the body of the church,—a resolution the more honourable to the rev. gentleman, because it is carried out at the sacrifice of his own private interests.——It is said to be the intention of the Woods and Forests to apply next session for an Act to vest the Pavilion in her Majesty in fee-simple, to dispose of it as she may please. It applies further for power to purchase lands, houses, &c. intermixed with or contiguous to the premises.——A memorial window, in the decorated style, was last week fixed at Portswood Church, near Southampton: Mr. Brandon, architect; Mr. Baker, mason; and the stained glass by Messrs. Ward and Nixon.——The new dining-hall, erected in Pembroke College, Oxford, from designs by Mr. Hayward, architect, of Exeter, has been opened: Mr. Arding (London) was the builder.——The Royal Old Wells and Baths at Cheltenham have, according to the *Journal*, been purchased by Messrs. Rowe and S. Onley, jun., with a view to restore or rebuild the pumproom on a more extensive scale for general purposes; also to preserve the old walk, with its noble avenue of time-honoured elms. A plan, too, is said to have been submitted to the town commissioners for running a main public sewer down the whole length of the Chelt, at a cost of between one and two thousand pounds, while its sanitary value would be incalculable. The river Chelt would then become again a trout stream. An anonymous "friend" has contributed 1,000*l.* towards rebuilding St. Peter's Church, Cheltenham. The same "friend" who has behaved so generously towards St. Peter's Church has given a donation of 100*l.* for the Church of England training schools at Cheltenham.——The old church at Buckenhall, six miles from Taunton, is undergoing entire demolition; the old Gothic windows being broken up to mend a wall! A cross and other parts were taken to Taunton, to be kept as a memento of what appears to be a very strange proceeding. A new church has been erected nearer the clergyman's residence.——The foundation-stone of the new bridge at the eastern approach into Truro, was laid on 4th inst.——A map, shewing the entire range of the Liverpool docks, existing and intended, has just been published. The extreme length of the river wall, which fronts the line of the docks, is within a few yards of 4 miles. The total water area now available amounts to upwards of 195 acres, and the total quay space to more than 14 miles. There are in all twenty-one docks in operation, exclusive of graving docks, half-tide docks, and basins. Of these, five, comprising about 33 acres of water area, and nearly 2 miles of quay space, have been opened within the last few weeks. Two others, and a half-tide dock, which will yield together 21 acres of water area and one mile of quay space, are in a state of great forwardness, and when all are brought into play, together with the contemplated increase in the neighbourhood of Wapping, Liverpool will be possessed of a vast extent of dock accommodation.——Steps, says the *Leeds Intelligencer*, are being taken for the erection of a new church in St. Matthew's district, Little London. The designs approved for the structure are by Mr. Burleigh, architect. The church will consist of a nave of five bays, with clerestory and aisles; and a chancel with two lights on each side. The style is decorated. The original design shews a tower at the south-west angle, forming the porch, and surmounted by a spire; but to save expense, a gable belfry is substituted, and a porch is attached to the centre compartment of the south aisle. The clerestory windows are each a circle enclosing a trefoil.——The inhabitants of Doncaster have presented a memorial to the town council on the supply of water. In some parts of the town they have not had water for three or four days and sometimes a week together! Water companies do indeed require a little salutary correction, and in more places, too, than Doncaster.——The Hull Dock Company have resolved to go to Parliament for a short Bill to enable them to raise 150,000*l.* on loan, in addition to the 400,000*l.* which they are, by their existing Acts, authorised to borrow for the completion of their works.——The foundation stone of a new Roman Catholic Church was lately laid at Morpeth.——A monument in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Chalmers has just been erected over his grave, in the Southern Cemetery, Grange Loan, Edinburgh, by his family. The design is said to be extremely simple, consisting of three massive slabs of granite, projecting from the northern wall of the cemetery, the one in the centre having the inscription, "Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D., born in 1780, died 1847." The grave is enclosed with a railing in the Gothic style.

Miscellanea.

Ill-Restoration of Churches.—At the first meeting of the Archæological Institute on the 3rd inst., Mr. Westmacott took occasion to invite the attention of the members resident in remote parts of England, to the injuries caused by injudicious restoration of churches. He alluded to various architectural remains of value which he had visited during a recent tour for the purpose of examining the church architecture of some of the counties least visited by antiquaries; and said, he had witnessed with regret the still prevalent deficiency of care and judgment in the repair or rebuilding of many parochial churches deserving of preservation. These remarks were followed up by several members present, stating recent instances of the destruction of ancient works of architecture or other art. Mr. Lamb alluded to the total ruin of a church at Quarendon in Buckinghamshire, rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee in the reign of Elizabeth, and in which some fine family memorials existed within memory, now wholly destroyed. The fabric had been in a perfect state at the close of the last century. Mr. Westwood complained of the destruction of a curious inscription at Sunning-hill, given in Camden's "Britannia," and now lost. Mr. Richardson remarked that the alabaster tombs and effigies of the Minors family in Staffordshire had been removed, and their fate was not known. Lord Northampton recommended to the society to encourage a more active interest in the preservation of ancient remains,—and suggested that much might be effected through the influence of members resident in various remote parts. He called attention to the frequent discoveries of mural paintings during restoration of churches, and to their interest as examples of art: the valuable decorations just discovered at Wells,—the curious designs lately found by Mr. Blore in restoring the Church of Caistor, Northamptonshire,—and the design exhibited by Mr. Giles on the present occasion, from the Church of Wellington, Somersetshire, the finest example of painted sculpture, perhaps, yet discovered. Works of this nature could rarely be fully preserved, and it became desirable to obtain careful drawings of them.

Smoky Chimnies.—Sir: I have tried all sorts of things to remedy this evil in a house which I built for a gentleman in Oxfordshire last year. All that I had hitherto tried has been in vain. I one day arranged a pot, which I suppose may be called a self-acting pot, and I am glad to say this answers, and has remedied the evil. It is set diagonally (where there are more than one they would be set point to point); there are four doors, one on each side, with a connecting-rod attached to each pair, so that when the wind is blowing strongly from any quarter, two doors will be immediately shut, and the two opposite opened by those that are shut: the top is quite closed.

H. C. T.

The Art-Union of London and the Board of Trade.—We are positively informed that a petition to the Board of Trade, professedly emanating from artists, and urging the necessity of preventing the selection of the prizes by the prizeholders themselves, has been got up by parties *connected with that Board*, and is now being sent round to the leading artists to obtain, if possible, their signatures! Surely their lordships cannot be aware of such an unscrupulous proceeding—a proceeding at once undignified, hazardous, and tyrannic. To our minds it involves so much more than the mere question at issue that we can scarcely credit the statement. It comes to us, however, from a member of the Academy, to whom the petition was sent, and who at once refused to sign it,—because, as he said, he honestly believed that the Art-Union was doing much for art and artists in this country, and that the alteration in its constitution which some few individuals desired to make, and which the petition sought, would greatly cripple if not altogether destroy it.

Deaths through insufficiency of Machinery.—We learn from the local press that the erection of a court-house at Tain, Ross-shire, upon the site of the old prison, has already been signalised by a disaster almost as melancholy as that which attended the destruction of the former building by fire in the year 1845. For the purpose of raising the stones employed in the building, a crane was erected some time since, and appeared to be quite sufficient for the duty required, but the ratchet-catch was left out of its place, and the stone then being raised, descended and killed one of the workmen. Two other lives were afterwards sacrificed by a part of the machinery giving way. The overseer, after the first accident, substituted a new jib, much longer and heavier than the one formerly used, with a view to the more convenient execution of the work. This new jib was a fir log, about 48 feet long, and throughout its whole length about 8½ inches square. In raising a heavy stone the catch of the ratchet-wheel became bent, and therefore shortened. The jib got a start downwards, and the extremities of the ratchet-teeth gave way, one after another, by the action of the catch against them. In its descent the jib struck against a platform near the front wall, and a portion of it, about 37 feet long, turning round the point of fracture, the extreme end fell into the middle of the street and killed two boys, one of whom was engaged at the work, the other a mere passer-by. Want of care on the part of those engaged in such operations is a *crime*.

Lecture at the London School of Design.—On Friday, in last week, Mr. R. N. Wornum delivered a lecture on Asiatic art, at the Government School of Design, Somerset House. The state of art among the Israelites at the period of their exodus out of Egypt was first considered, and their works—the Golden Calf and the Tabernacle—minutely described. As artists the Israelites of that period were in every respect Egyptian. The works of art of a later date—Solomon's Temple and the Golden Candlestick—were described in detail. The state of Assyrian art and the ruins at Persepolis afforded the lecturer an opportunity of stating a great number of facts connected with these ruins. A description of the excavated temples of the Hindoos concluded the lecture.

Exhibitions for the Working-Classes, Manchester.—The Exhibition of the Works of Modern Artists at Manchester has closed for the season. Following the plan commenced last year, the rooms were thrown open to the working-classes at the charge of twopence each. During the twenty-four nights when so opened, they were visited by about 17,000 persons, consisting, in a great measure, of the class for whom this evening exhibition was more particularly intended. They evidently both valued the privilege and derived from it an enjoyment which it was highly gratifying to observe: and *in no one instance did the slightest damage to any work occur*.

Incrustation in Steam-Boilers.—M. Cavé, the eminent French engineer, announces that he has ascertained that a number of small oak blocks, thrown into steam-boilers, has the effect of completely preventing incrustation, and that it is sufficient to renew them about twice a fortnight.

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